

Appl. No. : 10/030,778
Filed : January 7, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (original): A strut mount comprising an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is fixed, an outer member attached to a vehicle body while surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, and a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration:

wherein the outer member is provided with an attachment piece that is fitted and secured to an attachment plate of the vehicle body from underneath, and the attachment piece is curved in the form of a sphere corresponding to the shape of the lower surface of the attachment plate curved in the form of a sphere.

2 (withdrawn): The strut mount as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elastomer is a rubber elastomer stuck to the inner and outer members by means of die forming:

wherein the attachment piece of the outer member is equipped with a fastening surface portion that is exposed from the rubber elastomer and tightened to the attachment plate of the vehicle by bolts, and a non-fastening surface portion of plane form is provided around the fastening surface portion by being lowered via a different level portion.

3 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 1, wherein both the attachment piece of the outer member and the attachment plate of the vehicle body are fastened by tightening a bolt screwed to a nut, which is caulked and secured on the lower surface side of the attachment piece of the outer member, from above the attachment plate of the vehicle body.

4 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 3, wherein the nut is a caulking nut with a cylindrical portion that is inserted into the nut attachment hole formed on the attachment piece of the outer member, the caulking nut with the upsetting cylindrical portion being stuck to the attachment piece.

5 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 3, wherein the nut is a caulking nut with the cylindrical portion that is inserted into the nut attachment hole formed on the attachment piece of the outer member, the caulking nut being stuck to the attachment piece by pressurizing the circumference of the nut attachment hole from the direction square to the attachment piece plate surface and diminishing the nut attachment hole in diameter.

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6 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 5, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical portion of the caulking nut is corrugated, and an extra wall surrounding the nut attachment hole cuts into the corrugated outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical portion as the nut attachment hole is diminished in diameter, the extra wall acting as a steady rest to restrain the caulking nut from turning together with the bolt.

7 (withdrawn): ~~AThe strut mount comprising an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is fixed, an outer member attached to a vehicle body while surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, and a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration as set forth in claim 1,~~

—wherein the elastomer is a rubber elastomer stuck to the inner and outer members by means of die forming:

— the outer member is provided with the attachment piece that is fitted and secured to an attachment plate of the vehicle body from underneath,

— the attachment piece is equipped with a fastening surface portion that is exposed from the rubber elastomer and tightened to the attachment plate of the vehicle body by the bolts, and a non-fastening surface portion is provided around the fastening surface portion by being lowered via a different level portion.

8 (withdrawn): ~~A producing method of the~~ The strut mount as set forth in claim 7, wherein, when forming the rubber elastomer, the rubber is formed by preventing the rubber elastomer from coming into the fastening surface portion by pressing the a forcing surface portion provided on the forming die against the non-fastening surface portion.

9 (canceled)

10 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The strut mount comprising an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is fixed, an outer member attached to a vehicle body while surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, and a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration:

— wherein the outer member is provided with an attachment piece that is fitted and secured to an attachment plate of the vehicle body from underneath, both the attachment piece of the outer member and the attachment plate of the vehicle body are fastened by tightening the bolt screwed to the nut, which is caulked and secured on the lower surface side of the attachment piece, from above the attachment plate of the vehicle body.

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11 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 10, wherein the nut is a caulking nut with a cylindrical portion that is inserted into the nut attachment hole formed on the attachment piece of the outer member, the caulking nut with the upsetting cylindrical portion being stuck to the attachment piece.

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12 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 10, wherein the nut is a caulking nut with the cylindrical portion that is inserted into the nut attachment hole formed on the attachment piece of the outer member, the caulking nut being stuck to the attachment piece by pressurizing the circumference of the nut attachment hole from the direction square to the attachment piece plate surface and diminishing the nut attachment hole in diameter.

13 (original): The strut mount as set forth in claim 12, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical portion of the caulking nut is corrugated, and an extra wall surrounding the nut attachment hole cuts into the corrugated outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical portion as the nut attachment hole is diminished in diameter, the extra wall acting as a steady rest to restrain the caulking nut from turning together with the bolt.

14 (new): A strut mount comprising:

an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is to be fixed;
an outer member surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, said outer member being provided with an attachment piece fitted and secured to an attachment plate of a vehicle body from underneath, said attachment piece (i) having a lower surface on which nuts are caulked and secured, (ii) being curved in the form of a sphere corresponding to the shape of a lower surface of the attachment plate curved in the form of a sphere, and (iii) being fastened to the attachment plate of the vehicle body with bolts screwed downward to the nuts through the attachment plate of the vehicle body; and
a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration and enclosing the outer member, wherein the lower surface of the attachment piece has around each nut a fastening surface portion that is not covered with the rubber elastomer.

15 (new): A strut mount comprising:

an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is to be fixed;
an outer member surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, said outer member being provided with an attachment piece fitted and secured to an

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✓ - attachment plate of a vehicle body from underneath, said attachment piece (i) having a lower surface on which nuts are attached, (ii) being curved in the form of a sphere corresponding to the shape of a lower surface of the attachment plate curved in the form of a sphere, and (iii) being fastened to the attachment plate of the vehicle body with bolts screwed downward to the nuts through the attachment plate of the vehicle body; and
a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration and enclosing the outer member, wherein the lower surface of the attachment piece has around each nut a fastening surface portion that is not covered with the rubber elastomer.

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16 (new): A strut mount comprising:

an inner member to which an upper extremity of a rod of a buffer is to be fixed;
an outer member surrounding an outer circumference of the inner member, said outer member being provided with an attachment piece fitted and secured to an attachment plate of a vehicle body from underneath, said attachment piece being curved in the form of a sphere corresponding to the shape of a lower surface of the attachment plate curved in the form of a sphere, wherein both the attachment piece of the outer member and the attachment plate of the vehicle body are fastened with bolts screwed to nuts; and

a rubber elastomer interposed between the inner and outer members to dampen vibration and enclosing the outer member, wherein the lower surface of the attachment piece has around each nut a fastening surface portion that is not covered with the rubber elastomer.